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Lent has Arrived

CRS Rice Bowl kicks off Lent

Catholics are kicking off Lent with CRS Rice Bowl. A new app, a meatless meal cooking show with Father Leo, and a photo challenge are asking participants to journey into a meaningful Lenten experience. [Learn more about how you can bring Lent to life in your diocese.](#)



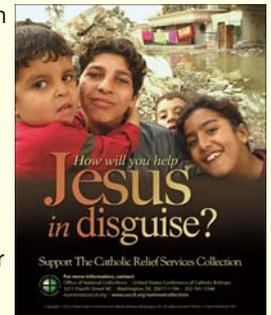
Break your Lenten fast with Fair Trade!

Celebrate Easter this year by making your purchases count for fair trade farmers and artisans! Our partners at Equal Exchange and SERRV both offer fabulous selections of chocolate and gifts that can make your Easter baskets come alive, while still standing in solidarity with the fair traders that made these special products happen.



Catholic Relief Services Collection

The Catholic Relief Services (CRS) Collection funds six Catholic agencies that work to serve our suffering brothers and sisters around the world. In most parishes, the Catholic Relief Services Collection will take place the weekend of March 29-30. You can make this Collection more successful by encouraging your parishes to use the posters, fliers, and bulletin announcements that are [available online here](#). Thank you for helping Jesus in disguise!



Get the Facts

Get the Facts is a section of the Partnership Newsletter used to share some key points on the work we are able to do because of our partnership with you. This issue's fact sheet is entitled



[CRS in Burkina Faso: An Overview of Our Work](#). It describes CRS' current programming in Burkina Faso in the following areas: food security and agriculture, emergency response, microsavings and credit, education, health and nutrition.



INICIO QUIÉNES SOMOS DÓNDE SERVICIOS CÓMO SERVICIOS TOMA ACCIÓN

#VivaLent



¿Cómo participar?

Envía tu foto en esta página a partir del 5 de marzo.
O envíala por Twitter o Instagram a #VivaLent.



Rezar el rosario diario

Un gran premio. La foto con más

Actividad cuaresmal: Viva la Cuarema



Now that Lent and Plato de Arroz de CRS are well on their way for 2014, please visit our homepage to get the details on our new Lenten contest at this link: [Actividad cuaresmal: Viva la Cuarema](#) and you can also get there from our home page at [CRSespañol.org](#). The page for the actual contest is bilingual.

CRS Southeast Regional

On February 19, the Archdiocese of Louisville hosted its annual CRS Rice Bowl kickoff for Catholic schools. At this gathering, approximately 150 students in grades 6-12 from 28 Catholic schools heard about this wonderful Lenten program and were inspired by Thomas Awiapo, Global Solidarity Coordinator for Catholic Relief Services. The event was organized by this year's CRS Rice Bowl Award recipient, Mark Bouchard from the Archdiocese of Louisville, and supported by Archbishop Joseph Kurtz and CRS Southeast Relationship Manager, Matt Burkhart.



Mark Bouchard, CRS Rice Bowl Award recipient, from the Archdiocese of Louisville and organizer of CRS Rice Bowl Kickoff for Catholic schools.



Thomas Awiapo, Global Solidarity Coordinator for CRS addressing the students during the gathering.



- March 22-World Water Day
- April 2-4— National Catholic Educational Assoc. Convention
- April 7— World Health Day
- April 22—Earth Day (Climate Change)
- April 20-Easter Day
- April 25—World Malaria Day0
- May— Asian Pacific American Month
- May 10—World Fair Trade Day

Contact Us

- [CRS Regional Offices](#)
- Email: resources@crs.org
- U.S. Operations Call Center—1-866-608-5978

CRS Northeast/Mid-Atlantic Regional Office News

CRS has been amazed and humbled by the outpouring of prayers and support for our Typhoon Haiyan relief efforts in the Philippines. The Northeast/Mid-Atlantic office recently has met with some groups who have been very involved in response efforts.

On Tuesday, February 25, Maureen McCullough, Cheryl Mrazik, and Michele Gilfillan met with Bishop Paul Bootkoski of the Diocese of Metuchen, CRS DD Msgr. Joe Kerrigan, and over a dozen members of the Filipino Apostolate in the diocese to present a certificate of appreciation for the almost \$600,000 in contributions (through diocesan collection and individual gifts) made by Catholics in the Diocese of Metuchen.



On Friday, February 28, Maureen McCullough and Cheryl Mrazik met with seven members of the Filipino Executive Council of Greater Philadelphia, where the group presented CRS with a \$20,000 donation to typhoon relief efforts. Both groups are also involved with advocacy to designate Temporary Protected Status to nationals of the Philippines who are currently residing in the United States. Thank you to all of our generous supporters!

Fair Trade Awareness Day at Misericordia College

Fair Trade Awareness Day at Misericordia College- Misericordia has Fair Trade Green Mountain Coffee in their cafes and other eating spots on campus. However, they do not have it in the dining hall. The students started a petition to get FT coffee in the dining hall. Right now, the petition has about 50 signatures from students. Their goal is to get 300 signatures. Next, they will talk to dining services, and administrators who would be supportive of the endeavor. But they wanted the message to come from the students first. So, the CRS Campus Ambassadors organized a Fair Trade Awareness Day. They had students sign the petition, offered Fair trade coffee, and educated students on Fair Trade through CRS Fair Trade material and posters.

Spagettin' to Know You Gathering hosted by St. Joseph University

St. Joseph's University hosted a *Spagettin' to Know You* gathering to build relationships among the CRS Campus Ambassador groups in the Philadelphia region. Three schools were involved in the evening—St. Joseph's University, Cabrini, and La Salle. The students shared what they are doing and brainstormed about ideas even for next Lent! In the words of a participant from LaSalle: *We were thinking that next year, area schools that were interested could sponsor one simple meal during Lent and invite not only their campus, but also ambassadors from the other schools. I could be getting ahead of myself, but "4 Lent, 4 Life, 4 Philly. 4 Simple meals during Lent."*

Colleges/Universities Showcase 40 days of Lent with Videos

Throughout the **40 days** of Lent, we are featuring **40 stories** from university students who are living their faith. Through our communal creation and viewing of this series, together we practice solidarity, learn from one another and support one another in our Lenten journeys. Every day of Lent a new video will showcase how college and university students across the country are celebrating the season. To submit videos go to <http://www.crsricebowl.org/university/40-days-40-stories/> and to follow the videos all 40 days of Lent go to <https://vimeo.com/40days40stories>. You may also check out CRS University where we'll be tweeting out the videos daily.

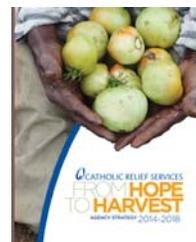


The 2014 Catholic Social Ministry Gathering was held at the Omni Shoreham Hotel in Washington D.C. CRS' Annual Diocesan Director meeting on February 1st featured Sean Callahan, Chief Operating Officer of CRS and Joan Rosenhauer, Executive Vice President of U.S. Operations. Sean stated that Pope Francis has inspired Catholics to make a difference and says "Get strong and start doing" and the goal is to build global solidarity. He told CRS Diocesan Directors and other partners from dioceses throughout the U.S. that we are a core group of people that want this movement of Pope Francis to go forward and realize we cannot do it alone and together we need to link with others and build resilience and global solidarity.

An important key is to let others know they are not alone as they experience tragedy. Cardinal McCarrick jumped on a plane to show our solidarity with the people of the Philippines and U.S. Catholics responded to their time of need providing aid and shelter. The peacebuilding efforts of CRS and Caritas in Syria, Sudan and Central Africa are essential. It is essential that we provide food, medical assistance, hygiene kits and shelter but an important part of our strategy is to talk with refugees from these countries, be in solidarity with them and tell their stories. Sean emphasized we must let them know we care, pray for peace and it is crucial to let people know we are praying for them in solidarity as a global family. He stated, "We should catch the "contagious wave" of helping our brothers and sisters around the world. Sean addressed CRS' new strategy and the agency's emergency responses, agricultural development and health programming around the world. He ended his presentation referring to Pope Francis' campaign against hunger and our need to stand together against hunger.

Joan Rosenhauer, Executive Vice President of U.S. Operations for CRS, reviewed why U.S. Operations was created by the bishops and emphasized that at the heart of our faith is *Deus Caritas no. 22* "Caring for the Poor is not optional" and we must convince people that we must make a difference and weave it into our programs.

Joan addressed the new CRS strategy and its four key priorities for FY2013-2018: 1. Attain leadership in signature program areas for greater impact and influence, 2. Deepen our expertise in five core competencies across CRS, 3. Strengthen engagement in the U.S. and overseas with Catholic Church organizations/individuals to promote integral human development and 4. Reinforce an organizational culture of high performance & accountability. [Click here to review new CRS Strategy 2014-2018.](#) Joan stated that an important part of the new strategy is to engage the Church by working along with dioceses to reach Hispanic communities, Catholic universities, parishes and schools.



Joan revealed to the gathering of CRS Diocesan Directors and other diocesan representatives that a survey was conducted asking diocesan directors about what challenges they face and most of the DDs stated: time, engaging parishes, and the need for great resources. Therefore the next steps that U.S. Operations will take is to ask dioceses to exchange their best practices, pacing and improving CRS communications and training, information topics and formats. Joan ended stating, "The Church will be stronger when we lift up others, which attracts other."

Cheryl Mrazik, Matt Burkhart and John Taylor from CRS' regional offices conducted the *Catholics Confront Global Poverty* session at this year's annual diocesan directors meeting. The session was entitled "Engaging the diocese through advocacy, how do we see God in the faces of others?"

Lynn Campbell, Archdiocese of Hartford, Pam Long, Archdiocese of Cincinnati and Anne Avellone, Archdiocese of Santa Fe participated as panelist for a discussion on "Building a Global Solidarity Movement. The discussion was facilitated by Kathleen O'Toole from U.S. Ops' Partnership Training and Engagement unit.

The annual table discussion session provided an opportunity for diocesan directors and other partners to discuss the following questions: 1. Share a brief success story of parish engagement with CRS and your diocese, 2. What are you learning from success stories? 3. Identify the benchmark you want to be celebrating. Kathleen O'Toole served as the facilitator and she has compiled a summary of the results, which will be forwarded to CRS Diocesan Directors.



Congratulations, Mark Bouchard! At this year's annual CRS Diocesan Directors meeting Mark Bouchard, Coordinator for Advocacy, Education, and National Programs for Catholic Charities in the Archdiocese of Louisville, Kentucky received the annual CRS Rice Bowl Award for his dedication and creativity.

Kimberly Mazyck, CRS Church Relations Manager is the agency's liaison who works with USCCB to plan CSMG gatherings. If you need information on this year's CSMG gathering, please email kimberly.mazyck@crs.org.

We look forward to seeing you, next year at the 2015 Annual CRS Diocesan Directors meeting in Washington D.C. which will be on Saturday, February 7, 2015.

Kristin Witte Joins Catholic Relief Services—Partnership Training and Engagement unit

We are pleased to announce that **Kristin Witte** has joined Catholic Relief Services' Partnership, Training, and Engagement unit as the new Program Officer for Youth and Education. Kristin's primary responsibilities will include oversight and management of iNeighbor, the Global Neighbor Schools program and national partnerships and relationships in Catholic Education. Kristin will share in the responsibilities of managing Food Fast and CRS Education with Ted Miles to help us and our partners think strategically about building capacity to engage the young church in global solidarity initiatives. Kristin brings a wealth of experience to Catholic Relief Services that is particularly relevant to our youth outreach. Welcome aboard Kristin!!

This year's **Social Action Summer Institute** will be held **July 20-24th at Washington University in St. Louis, MO**. We will alert you once registration is open.



RESOURCES FOR CRS DIOCESAN DIRECTORS AND U.S. PARTNERS

Brochures, Flyers, Speakers....Oh my!

CRS has a variety of printed resources to assist you with spreading the good news about our work overseas; you are also able to help others connect with us through programs such as CRS Rice Bowl, CRS Fair Trade and the CRS Food Fast program. (Should we include the links?) Each of these provides multiple ways to support those less fortunate overseas, and we have several other resources available for free --including free shipping!

Many of our resources can be ordered on-line through our website: http://crs.org/act/us-materials/itemlist.cfm?cat_id=1

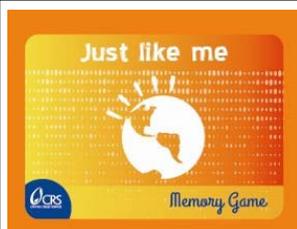
Once you finalize your order, be sure to keep the automated receipt at the end. This receipt serves two purposes: 1. It validates that your order was submitted; and 2. It gives you a printed record of your order.

If you do not receive a **Thank You** receipt after placing your order, re-enter your order; if no receipt appears, contact the CRS Call Center: **1-866-608-5978** or email us at resources@crs.org so that we can ensure your order was processed.

In addition to printed material, we have speakers available to come and talk about CRS; we also offer specialized trainings, for example: how to implement Rice Bowl in your faith community, organizing a visit to your congressman, forming a global solidarity team, just to name a few.

Not sure what resources we have or which ones would best suit your needs? Please contact [your local U.S. Regional Office](#). They would be happy to assist you.

CRS Preparing to Launch Just Like Me: Memory Game for Children



CRS is preparing to launch the Just Like Me: Memory Game for children to help benefit programming for Orphans and Vulnerable Children. It is played as a traditional 'memory game' to create solidarity with children around the world. CRS' Just Like Me: Memory Game provides an opportunity for children to share their thoughts and feelings with their parents, teachers and peers while learning about children in other countries that CRS actively supports. [Click here for more information.](#)